



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chippewa Falls-based 264th Engineer Group expected back in Wisconsin Tuesday

The Wisconsin Army National Guard's 264th Engineer Group, Chippewa Falls, is scheduled to be back in Wisconsin Tuesday morning after serving more than 14 months on active duty and service in Iraq for one full year. The unit's 80 soldiers were ordered to active duty Dec. 7, 2003 and deployed to Southwest Asia in early February 2004. They are scheduled to arrive at Volk Field just before 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8.

Soldiers will be met by Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton, senior National Guard officials, the Guard's 132nd Army Band, and as many as 250 family members, friends and fellow Guard soldiers. Following an initial reunion with their families and a brief official "welcome home," the soldiers will travel to nearby Fort McCoy to begin about five days of demobilization processing.

While in Iraq, the engineers operated from a forward operating base near Tikrit in the heart of the Sunni Triangle. They supported 368 engineer missions for the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division. The Wisconsin engineer group headquarters was responsible for \$192 million in construction funds, \$43 million in construction materials and \$15 million in concrete barriers erected to protect both U.S. soldiers and Iraqi citizens.

Following redeployment of the 264th Engineer Group, the Wisconsin Guard will still have about 1,570 soldiers and airmen on active duty. Of those, approximately 1,250 are currently deployed overseas.

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Note to Editors and News Directors: News media are welcome to cover the return of the 264th Engineer Group Tuesday morning. The unit is expected to arrive at Volk Field aboard an aircraft scheduled to land at about 11:00 a.m. Volk Field is located near Camp Douglas in Juneau County, just off exit 55 on Interstate Highways 90-94.

— more —

Engineer Group expected home

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Following the aircraft's arrival, soldiers and their families will have about an hour together before the soldiers are bused to Fort McCoy to begin demobilization processing. It is not yet known exactly when they will return to their hometown armory in Chippewa Falls before being released from active duty.

News media organizations wishing to cover the Volk Field arrival should call Lt. Col. Tim Donovan (608-242-3050 or Cell 608-516-1777) so arrangements can be made for access to the military installation. News media will not be permitted on the base unless arrangements have been made in advance.

AIRCRAFT ARRIVAL TIME IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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